



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
OMB Information Collection
Approval No.: 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Veterinary Shortage ID Code: TX111

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

King, Cottle, Foard, Knox, Stonewall, Dickens counties – North Texas

Location of Veterinary Shortage:

(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or

Intersection of US Hwy 82/TX 114 and US Hwy 83, Guthrie TX

Location of Position:

(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

☐ Type I Shortage: Private Practice

Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other _____

☒ Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area

Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☒ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other : _____

☐ Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time*)

Employer: _____ Position Title: _____

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- ☐ Food Safety
- ☐ Public Health
- ☐ Epidemiology
- ☐ Other: _____

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

A veterinarian meeting this shortage type is expected to devote at least 30% of their time to food animals, beef cattle specifically. The objectives of a veterinarian meeting the shortage situation in the above mentioned areas are as follows: to provide reliable and cost effective veterinary care for the numerous large beef cattle producers that exist in these counties. These communities are centered on beef cattle production as the main source of income and employment with several large ranches having been settled there for over 100 years. A veterinarian in this area is paramount to ensure the future of these historic ranches. While cattle numbers vary season-to-season they are reliably counted in the tens of thousands. Cow/calf operations make up the majority of the ranches in this area meaning veterinary needs are centered on pregnancy detection, bull breeding soundness and calving problems. The accredited veterinarian will serve as the first line of defense against foreign or emerging animal disease and will be familiar with the differential diagnosis and proper reporting of any suspected foreign animal disease.

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

A veterinarian working in this shortage situation would provide the routine yet necessary veterinary duties required to create a productive and profitable beef cattle operation. Such activities include but are not limited to: pregnancy detection, breeding soundness exams, vaccinations (such as brucellosis official calfhood vaccination/RB51, herd health, disease detection and veterinary emergency situations. Day-to-day activities for a veterinarian in this shortage situation will vary with the time of year. Travel is a must and ability to work in inclement weather necessary. Basic understanding of cattle production is required. A veterinarian servicing these communities must be able to communicate with the clientele about the importance of veterinary care in production animals; how together veterinarians and producers can create a more profitable outcome. Due to the nature of the required duties, the veterinarian is expected to maintain accreditation for large animal work through the USDA, as well as any needed training, approval and continuing education through the state veterinarian.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

With the number of veterinary graduates pursuing food animal work dwindling, with more young vets choosing the financial viable and comfortable small animal jobs centered in bigger cities, securing a veterinarian in the 3rd least populated county in the country (King County) has been a challenge. Difficulties in maintaining veterinary services to these areas include remote location, lack of conveniences (60-90 miles to the nearest city) and need to travel long distances to reach clientele. While there have been a limited number of vets successfully established in the area, retention of qualified individuals is a concern.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

Beef cattle production is a huge part of the economy in this very rural part of the state, and the region helps provide high quality beef for the nation. According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture, there are over 130,000 beef cattle in these counties combined. State and federal veterinary infrastructure provides an organized and effective response capacity throughout the state for any foreign, emerging, or zoonotic disease threat, and also holds the ultimate responsibility for maintaining the valuable safe

and wholesome food supply that is currently produced in the state of Texas and exported nationally and internationally. However, private veterinary practitioners serve crucial functions in the early recognition of foreign and other significant animal disease problems, as well as educating livestock producers about appropriate animal care practices, judicious use of over-the-counter drugs and remedies, and disease recognition and reporting. A decrease in the number of veterinarians directly and frequently inspecting livestock, and an increase in geographic distance between veterinary care and animal populations, over time could lead to an overall decrease in productivity and increased production costs. These consequences have potential effects on the long-term value and quality of animal products that we currently enjoy.

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a "service in emergency" agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the "Service in Emergency" agreement.

N/A

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Dee Ellis, DVM, MPA
Name: (point of contact Holly Poremski, DVM)
State Veterinarian/Executive Director
Title: Texas Animal Health Commission
Organization: comments@tahc.state.tx.us
Email: 800-550-8242 x718
Telephone Number: (Area code required)

Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OEP, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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